SIRHAN MOVED INTO NEW CELL

T-P 7-9-68

Transferred Secretly to Hall of Justice

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The young Jordanian charged with assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has been transferred -- so secretly even his attorney didn't know -- to the towering gray building where he faces trial.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, was moved Sunday from his heavily guarded cell in the County Men's Central Jail to jail quarters high in the Civic Center's Hall of Justice, Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess announced Monday.

Pitchess' terse announcement said: "The transfer was accomplished in a routine manner and was part of an over - all, previously scheduled program of security for the inmate."

The transfer was made for the convenience of having Sirhan's cell nearer the scene of court proceedings, officials said.

Later the sheriff added these details:

A convoy of three black and white radio patrol cars, manned by seven deputies, made the afternoon move—less than a mile through a smoggy, downtown, semi - industrial area.

Sirhan's 6-by-8 feet cell, freshly painted green, is on the 13th floor, deputies said. Hall of Justice jail quarters occupy the 10th through 15th floors.

It's in an isolated corridor with no outside windows and no other prisoners. In jail slang this floor is the "high power" section where prisoners are quartered alone in contrast to so-called modules holding groups of inmates.

Cell accoutrements are standard: bunk fixed to wall; toilet stool without a cover which could be ripped off and used as a weapon; wash basin; 12-inch circular metal mirror attached to the wall.

An adjoining, larger security area, with bars and sliding doors like the cell, has a 20-by-30-inch window in one wall. On fixed stools Sirhan, on one side, and such visitors as family members on the other side can see each other through the glass and converse on hand telephones.

Sirhan is due to enter a plea July 19.